BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:)	
Janine Gail Suvak, M.D.))	File No. 23-2007-181375
Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 93043)	
Respondent)	

DECISION

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted as the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California. Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California.

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on <u>July 9, 2010</u>.

IT IS SO ORDERED June 10, 2010.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

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Chair, Panel B

1 2 3 4 5 6	EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Attorney General of the State of California THOMAS S. LAZAR Supervising Deputy Attorney General SAMUEL K. HAMMOND, State Bar No. 141135 Deputy Attorney General 110 West "A" Street, Suite 1100 San Diego. CA 92101 P.O. Box 85266 San Diego, CA 92186-5266 Telephone: (619) 645-2083 Facsimile: (619) 645-2061		
8	Attorneys for Complainant		
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10	BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS		
12	STATE OF CAL In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	IFORNIA Case No. 23-2007-181375	
13	JANINE GAIL SUVAK. M.D.	OAH No. L-200970599	
14	4102 Constitution Avenue, Bldg. 912 Los Alamitos, CA 90720	STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND DISCIPLINARY ORDER	
15	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 93043	DISCH ELIVIRE GREEN	
16	Respondent.		
17	respondent.		
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19	TERCHEDEDY STIDLE ATED ANT	A GREED by and between the parties to the	
20	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties to the		
21	above-entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:		
22	PARTIES 1. 1. IV. White an (Complement) is the Interim Executive Director of the		
23	1. Linda K. Whitney (Complainant) is the Interim Executive Director of the		
24	Medical Board of California. She is represented in this matter by Edmund G. Brown Jr.,		
25	Attorney General of the State of California, by Samuel K. Hammond, Deputy Attorney General.		
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- 2. Respondent Janine Gail Suvak, M.D. (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding by Albert J. Garcia. Esq., whose address is Watergate Towers III, 2000 Powell Street. Suite 1290. Emeryville, CA 94608-1860.
- On or about October 7, 2005, the Medical Board of California issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 93043 to Janine Gail Suvak, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 23-2007-181375 and will expire on August 31, 2011, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

4. On or about April 9, 2009, Accusation No. 23-2007-181375 was filed by Barbara Johnston, in her then official capacity as the Executive Officer of Medical Board .(hereinafter "Board"), and is currently pending against Respondent. A true and correct copy of the Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on April 9, 2009. Respondent timely filed her Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. A true and correct copy of Accusation No. 23-200-181375 is attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- 5. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 23-2007-181375. Respondent has also carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.
- 6. Respondent is fully aware of her legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against her; the right to present evidence and to testify on her own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision: and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.

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7. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

CULPABILITY

8. Respondent admits the complete truth and accuracy of each and every charge and allegation in Accusation No. 23-2007-181375 and that she has thereby subjected her Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 93043 to disciplinary action. Respondent agrees to the bound by the Board's imposition of discipline as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below.

CONTINGENCY

- 9. The parties agree that this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be submitted to the Board for its consideration in the above-entitled matter and, further, that the Board shall have a reasonable period of time in which to consider and act on this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order after receiving it.
- The parties agree that this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order 10. shall be null and void and not binding upon the parties unless approved and adopted by the Board, except for this paragraph, which shall remain in full force and effect. Respondent fully understands and agrees that in deciding whether or not to approve and adopt this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, the Board may receive oral and written communications from its staff and/or the Attorney General's office. Communications pursuant to this paragraph shall not disqualify the Board, any member thereof, and/or any other person from future participation in this or any other matter affecting or involving respondent. In the event that the Board, in its discretion, does not approve and adopt this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, with the exception of this paragraph, it shall not become effective, shall be of no evidentiary value whatsoever, and shall not be relied upon or introduced in any disciplinary action by either party hereto. Respondent further agrees that should the Board reject this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order for any reason, respondent will assert no claim that the Board, or any member thereof, was prejudiced by its/his/her review, discussion and/or consideration of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order or of any matter or matters related hereto.

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ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

- This Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is intended by the parties herein to be an integrated writing representing the complete, final and exclusive embodiment of the agreements of the parties in the above-entitled matter.
- 12. The parties understand and agree that facsimile copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.
- 13. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order:

DISCIPLINARY ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate

No. A 93043 issued to Respondent Janine Gail Suvak, M.D., is revoked. However, the
revocation is stayed and Respondent is placed on probation for five (5) years (from the effective
date of this Decision and Order) on the following terms and conditions:

1. <u>PRESCRIBING PRACTICES COURSE</u> Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall enroll in a course in prescribing practices, at Respondent's expense, approved in advance by the Board or its designee. Failure to successfully complete the course during the first six (6) months of probation is a violation of probation.

A prescribing practices course taken after the acts that gave rise to the charges in the Accusation, but prior to the effective date of the Decision may, in the sole discretion of the Board or its designee, be accepted towards the fulfillment of this condition if the course would have been approved by the Board or its designee had the course been taken after the effective date of this Decision.

Respondent shall submit a certification of successful completion to the Board or its designee not later than 15 calendar days after successfully completing the course, or not later than 15 calendar days after the effective date of the Decision, whichever is later.

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2. <u>MEDICAL RECORD KEEPING COURSE</u> Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this decision. Respondent shall enroll in a course in medical record keeping, at Respondent's expense, approved in advance by the Board or its designee. Failure to successfully complete the course during the first six (6) months of probation is a violation of probation.

A medical record keeping course taken after the acts that gave rise to the charges in the Accusation, but prior to the effective date of the Decision may, in the sole discretion of the Board or its designee, be accepted towards the fulfillment of this condition if the course would have been approved by the Board or its designee had the course been taken after the effective date of this Decision.

Respondent shall submit a certification of successful completion to the Board or its designee not later than 15 calendar days after successfully completing the course, or not later than 15 calendar days after the effective date of the Decision, whichever is later.

3. <u>CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES - MAINTAIN RECORDS</u>

Respondent shall maintain a record of all controlled substances ordered, prescribed, dispensed, administered, or possesses by respondent, and any recommendation or approval which enables a patient or patient's primary caregiver to possess or cultivate marijuana for the personal medical purposes of the patient within the meaning of Health and Safety code section 11362.5, during probation, showing all the following 1) the name and address of patient; 2) the date; 3) the character and quantity of controlled substances involved, and 4) the indications and diagnosis for which the controlled substances for which the controlled substances were furnished.

Respondent shall keep these records in a separate file or ledger, in chronological order. All records and any inventories of controlled substances shall be available for immediate inspection and copying on the premises by the Board or its designee at all times during business hours and shall be retained for the entire term of probation.

Failure to maintain all records, to provide immediate access to the inventory, or to make all records available for immediate inspection and copying on the premises, is a violation of probation.

4. <u>CLINICAL TRAINING PROGRAM</u> Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall enroll in a clinical training or educational program equivalent to the Physician Assessment and Clinical Education Program (PACE) offered at the University of California - San Diego School of Medicine ("Program").

The Program shall consist of a Comprehensive Assessment program comprised of a two-day assessment of Respondent's physical and mental health; basic clinical and communication skills common to all clinicians; and medical knowledge, skill and judgment pertaining to Respondent's specialty or sub-specialty, and at minimum, a 40 hour program of clinical education in the area of practice in which Respondent was alleged to be deficient and which takes into account data obtained from the assessment, Decision(s), Accusation(s), and any other information that the Board or its designee deems relevant. Respondent shall pay all expenses associated with the clinical training program.

Based on Respondent's performance and test results in the assessment and clinical education, the Program will advise the Board or its designee of its recommendation(s) for the scope and length of any additional educational or clinical training, treatment for any medical condition, treatment for any psychological condition, or anything else affecting Respondent's practice of medicine. Respondent shall comply with Program recommendations.

At the completion of any additional educational or clinical training, Respondent shall submit to and pass an examination. The Program's determination whether or not Respondent passed the examination or successfully completed the Program shall be binding.

Respondent shall complete the Program not later than six months after

Respondent's initial enrollment unless the Board or its designee agrees in writing to a later time for completion.

Failure to participate in and complete successfully all phases of the clinical training program outlined above is a violation of probation.

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Decision, respondent shall submit to the Board or its designee for prior approval as a practice monitor, the name and qualifications of one or more licensed physicians and surgeons whose licenses are valid and in good standing, and who are preferably American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) certified. A monitor shall have no prior or current business or personal relationship with respondent or other relationship that could reasonably be expected to compromise the ability of the monitor to render fair and unbiased reports to the Board, including but not limited to any form of bartering, shall be in respondent's field of practice, and shall agree to serve as respondent's monitor. Respondent shall pay all monitoring costs.

The Board or its designee shall provide the approved monitor with copies of the Decision(s) and Accusation(s), and a proposed monitoring plan. Within 15 calendar days of receipt of the Decision(s), Accusation(s), and proposed monitoring plan, the monitor shall submit a signed statement that the monitor has read the Decision(s), Accusation(s), fully understands the role of a monitor, and agrees or disagrees with the proposed monitoring plan. If the monitor disagrees with the proposed monitoring plan the monitor shall submit a revised monitoring plan with the signed statement.

Within 60 days of the effective date of the Decision and continuing throughout probation, respondent's medical practice shall be monitored by the approved monitor. Respondent shall make all records available for immediate inspection and copying on the premises by the monitor at all times during business hours and shall retain the records for the entire term of probation.

The monitor(s) shall submit quarterly reports written report of the Board or its designee which includes an evaluation of respondent's performance indication whether respondent practices are within the standards of practice of medicine or billing, or both, and whether respondent is practicing medicine safely or billing appropriately or both. It shall be the sole responsibility of respondent to ensure that the monitor submits the quarterly written reports to the Board or its designee within 10 calendar days after the end of the proceeding quarter.

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If the monitor resigns or is no longer available, respondent shall, within 5 calendar days of such resignation or unavailability, submit to the Board or its designee for prior approval, the name and qualifications of a replacement monitor who will be assuming the responsibility within 15 calendar days. If respondent fails to obtain approval for a replacement monitor within 60 days of the resignation or unavailability of the monitor, respondent shall be suspended from the practice of medicine until a replacement monitor is approved and prepared to assume immediate monitoring responsibility. Respondent shall cease the practice of medicine within three (3) calendars after being so notified by the Board or its designee.

In lieu of a monitor, respondent may participate in the professional enhancement program similar to the one offered by the Physician Assessment and Clinical Education Program at the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine, that includes, at minimum, quarterly chart review, semi-annual practice assessment, and semi-annual review of professional growth and education. Respondent shall participate in the professional enhancement program at respondent's expense during the term of probation.

Failure to maintain all records, or to make all appropriate records available for immediate inspection and copying on the premises, or to comply with this condition as outlined above is a violation of probation.

6. <u>ETHICS COURSE</u> Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this decision, Respondent shall enroll in a course in ethics, at Respondent's expense, approved in advance by the Board or its designee. Failure to successfully complete the course during the first year of probation is a violation of probation.

An ethics course taken after the acts that gave rise to the charges in the Accusation, but prior to the effective date of the Decision may, in the sole discretion of the Board or its designee, be accepted towards the fulfillment of this condition if the course would have been approved by the Board or its designee had the course been taken after the effective date of this Decision.

Respondent shall submit a certification of successful completion to the Board or its designee not later than 15 calendar days after successfully completing the course, or not later

than 15 calendar days after the effective date of the Decision, whichever is later.

California, the Respondent shall provide a true copy of the Decision(s) and Accusation(s) to the Chief of Staff or the Chief Executive Officer at every hospital where privileges or membership are extended to Respondent, at any other facility where Respondent engages in the practice of medicine, including all physician and locum tenens registries or other similar agencies, and to the Chief Executive Officer at every insurance carrier which extends malpractice insurance coverage to Respondent. Respondent shall submit proof of compliance to the Board or its designee within 15 calendar days.

This condition shall apply to any change(s) in hospitals, other facilities or insurance carrier.

- 8. <u>SUPERVISION OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS</u> During probation, Respondent is prohibited from supervising physician assistants in California.
- 9. <u>OBEY ALL LAWS</u> Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws, all rules governing the practice of medicine in California, and remain in full compliance with any court ordered criminal probation, payments and other orders.
- declarations under penalty of perjury on forms provided by the Board, stating whether there has been compliance with all the conditions of probation. Respondent shall submit quarterly declarations not later than 10 calendar days after the end of the preceding quarter.
- Board's probation unit. Respondent shall, at all times, keep the Board informed of Respondent's business and residence addresses. Changes of such addresses shall be immediately communicated in writing to the Board or its designee. Under no circumstances shall a post office box serve as an address of record, except as allowed by Business and Professions Code section 2021(b).

Respondent shall not engage in the practice of medicine in Respondent's home.

Respondent shall maintain a current and renewed California physician's and surgeon's license.

Respondent shall immediately inform the Board, or its designee, in writing, of travel to any areas outside the jurisdiction of California which lasts, or is contemplated to last, more than 30 calendar days.

- shall be available in person for interviews either at Respondent's place of business or at the probation unit office, with the Board or its designee, upon request at various intervals, and either with or without prior notice throughout the term of probation.
- Respondent should leave the State of California to reside or to practice, Respondent shall notify the Board or its designee in writing 30 calendar days prior to the dates of departure and return.

 Non-practice is defined as any period of time exceeding 30 calendar days in which Respondent is not engaging in any activities defined in Sections 2051 and 2052 of the Business and Professions Code.

All time spent in an intensive training program outside the State of California which has been approved by the Board or its designee shall be considered as time spent in the practice of medicine within the State. A Board-ordered suspension of practice shall not be considered as a period of non-practice. Periods of temporary or permanent residence or practice outside California will not apply to the reduction of the probationary term. Periods of temporary or permanent residence or practice outside California will relieve Respondent of the responsibility to comply with the probationary terms and conditions with the exception of this condition and the following terms and conditions of probation: Obey all laws; and Probation Unit Compliance.

Respondent's license shall be automatically canceled if Respondent's periods of temporary or permanent residence or practice outside California total two years. However, Respondent's license shall not be canceled as long as Respondent is residing and practicing medicine in another state of the United States and is on active probation with the medical licensing authority of that state, in which case the two-year period shall begin on the date probation is completed or terminated in that state.

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14. FAILURE TO PRACTICE MEDICINE - CALIFORNIA RESIDENT

In the event Respondent resides in the State of California and for any reason Respondent stops practicing medicine in California, Respondent shall notify the Board or its designee in writing within 30 calendar days prior to the dates of non-practice and return to practice. Any period of non-practice within California, as defined in this condition, will not apply to the reduction of the probationary term and does not relieve Respondent of the responsibility to comply with the terms and conditions of probation. Non-practice is defined as any period of time exceeding 30 calendar days in which Respondent is not engaging in any activities defined in sections 2051 and 2052 of the Business and Professions Code.

All time spent in an intensive training program which has been approved by the Board or its designee shall be considered time spent in the practice of medicine. For purposes of this condition, non-practice due to a Board-ordered suspension or in compliance with any other condition of probation, shall not be considered a period of non-practice.

Respondent's license shall be automatically canceled if Respondent resides in California and for a total of two years, fails to engage in California in any of the activities described in Business and Professions Code sections 2051 and 2052.

- 15. <u>COMPLETION OF PROBATION</u> Respondent shall comply with all financial obligations (e.g., probation monitoring costs) not later than 120 calendar days prior to the completion of probation. Upon successful completion of probation, Respondent's certificate shall be fully restored.
- ondition of probation is a violation of probation. If Respondent violates probation in any respect, the Board, after giving Respondent notice and the opportunity to be heard, may revoke probation and carry out the disciplinary order that was stayed. If an Accusation, Petition to Revoke Probation, or an Interim Suspension Order is filed against Respondent during probation, the Board shall have continuing jurisdiction until the matter is final, and the period of probation shall be extended until the matter is final.

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associated with probation monitoring each and every year of probation, as designated by the Board, which may be adjusted on an annual basis. Such costs shall be payable to the Medical Board of California and delivered to the Board or its designee no later than January 31 of each calendar year. Failure to pay costs within 30 calendar days of the due date is a violation of probation.

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FEB-05-2010 FRI 12:23 PM DEPT OF JUSTICE/ATTY GEN FAX NO. 16196452061 P. 14717 ACCEPTANCE I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and 2 have fully discussed it with my attorney, Albert I. Garcia, Esq. I understand the stipulation and 3 the effect it will have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 93043. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree 4 5 to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California, Department of 5 Consumer Affairs, State of California DATED: FEBID S 9 10 Respondent 11 12 . Thave read and fully discussed with Respondent Janine Gail Suvak, M.D., the 13 terms and conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and 14 Disciplinary Order, I approve its form and coment, 15 DATED: 16 17 18 Attorney for Respondent 19 20 21 22 23 24

FEB-08-201	D MON 02:16 PM DEPT. OF JUSTICE/ATTY GEN FAX NO. 16196452061 P.	02					
1	<u>ENDORSEME</u> NT						
2	The foregoing Supulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully						
3							
4	Affairs, State of California.						
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6							
7	EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Attorney General of the State of California						
8	THOMAS S. LAZAR Supervising Deputy Attorney General						
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17	SAMUEL K. HAMMOND						
12	Deputy Attorney General						
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EXHIBIT A

Accusation No. 23-200-181375

FILED

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

SAGRAMENTO ANALYST

BY BY BY CONTROL ANALYST

EDMUND C. BROWN JR., Anorney General of the State of California THOMAS S. LAZAR
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Attorneys for Complainant

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BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:

JANINE GAIL SUVAK. M.D.
4102 Constitution Avenue, Bldg. 912
Los Alamitos, CA 90720

Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate
No. A 93043

Respondent.

Case No. 23-2007-181375

OAH No.

ACCUSATION

Complainant alleges:

PARTIES

- 1. Barbara Johnston (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in her official capacity as the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California.
- 2. On or about October 7, 2005, the Medical Board of California issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 93043 to Janine Gail Suvak, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on August 31, 2009, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

	era A de la	This Accasation is brought before the Medical Board of California.
Department	of Cons	umer Affairs (Board) under the authority of the following laws. All section
references a	re to the	Business and Professions Code (Code) unless otherwise indicated.

- 4. Section 2227 of the Code provides that a licensee who is found guilty under the Medical Practice Act may have his or her license revoked, suspended for a period not to exceed one year, placed on probation and required to pay the costs of probation monitoring, be publicly reprimanded, or such other action taken in relation to discipline as the Division of Medical Quality¹ deems proper.
- 5. Section 2234 of the Code provides that the Division of Medical Quality shall take action against any licensee who is charged with unprofessional conduct. In addition to other provisions of this article, unprofessional conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - "(a) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, assisting in or abetting the violation of, or conspiring to violate any provision of this chapter [Chapter 5, the Medical Practice Act].
 - "(b) Gross negligence.
 - "(c) Repeated negligent acts . . .
 - "(d) Incompetence.
 - "(e) The commission of any act involving dishonesty or corruption which is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of a physician and surgeon.
 - "(f) Any action or conduct which would have warranted the denial of a certificate.

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 1. California Business and Professions Code section 2002, as amended and effective January 1, 2008, provides that, unless otherwise expressly provided, the term "board" as used in the State Medical Practice Act (Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code. §ξ 2000, et seq.) means the "Medical Board of California." and references to the "Division of Medical Quality" and "Division of Licensing" in the Act or any other provision of law shall be deemed to refer to the Board.

- 6. Section 2238 provides that the violation of any rederal statute or federal regulation or any of the statutes or regulations of this state regulating dangerous drugs or controlled substances constitutes improfessional conduct.
- 7. Section 2242 provides, in pertinent part, that the prescribing, dispensing or furnishing dangerous drugs as defined by Code section 4022 without an appropriate prior examination and a medical indication, constitutes unprofessional conduct.
- Section 2242.1 provides, in pertinent part, that no person or entity may prescribe, dispense or furnish dangerous drugs as defined by section 4022 of the Code, on the Internet for the delivery to any person in this state, without an appropriate prior examination and medical indication therefor, except as authorized by section 2242.
- 9. Section 2266 provides that the failure of the physician and surgeon to maintain adequate and accurate records relating to the provision of services to their patients constitutes unprofessional conduct.
- 10. Unprofessional conduct under Code section 2234 is conduct which breaches the rules or ethical code of the medical profession, or conduct unbecoming a member in good standing of the medical profession and demonstrates an unfitness to practice medicine.

FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Gross Negligence)

11. Respondent Janine Gail Suvak, M.D., has subjected her Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 93043 to disciplinary action under section 2234, as defined by section 2234, subdivision (b), of the Code in that she committed gross negligence in her care, treatment and management of patients A.S., J.W.N., D.T., D.J.M., L.K., J.K. and T.O. The circumstances are as follows:

INTRODUCTION

A. Between about December 2005 and about October 2006, respondent worked as an independent contractor for www.justusameds.com, a Florida-based Internet

business that provided drugs to consumers over the Internet (hereinafter "justusameds"). Consumers who ordered drugs from justusameds were required to complete a questionnaire online which included the specific drug the consumer was ordering. The consumer was also asked to fax a "report" of a physical examination performed within 12 months of the order. If a consumer did not produce such a "report," justusameds would contact a mobile physical examination service for the completion of a physical examination form similar to a "life insurance medical exam;" form.

Justusameds would then "link" the consumer with respondent, and respondent would contact the consumer (hereinafter "patient") by telephone for "a physician-patient" interview. Respondent would have online access to the patient's records including the drug the patient ordered, during the interview. After the interview, respondent would send an online-prescription to justusameds for the exact medication the patient ordered. Respondent would write the prescription without performing a physical examination of the patient, and without contacting the patient's primary care physician. Justusameds would transmit the prescription to Elite Pharmacy located in River Ridge, Louisiana, which would fill the prescription and ship the drugs to the patient.

By this process, respondent prescribed controlled substances and dangerous drugs to "drug-seeking" and "drug addicted" patients in California and other states.

Justusameds paid respondent \$25.00 for each consultation. According to respondent, she sometimes consulted with as many as 80 patients per day. The patients named herein are some of the California patients who ordered and obtained controlled substances and dangerous drugs from justusameds based upon respondent's prescriptions.

Patient A.S.

B. On or about December 5, 2005, patient A.S., a then 34-year-old tentals, ordered 90 tablets of Hydrocodone APAP 10/325° from Justusameds. Patient A.S. provided a completed "life insurance type" medical form dated January 12, 2006, and signed by Dr. R.P. According to the medical form, A.S. complained of tension headache and mild anxiety. She had been prescribed the drug Lexapro for one year in 2003 for "panic attacks," and had been taking various pain medications for the headaches since she was 19 years old. Dr. R.P.'s examination revealed no abnormal findings. He recommended "pain medication as needed for migraine cephalgia," However, Dr. R.P. did not prescribe Hydrocodone for the patient, and there is no indication on the medical form that Hydrocodone was ever prescribed for the patient.

C. On or about January 17, 2006, respondent prescribed 90 tablets of Hydrocodone APAP 10/325 for the patient based on the patient's self diagnosis of "tension headaches." Respondent prescribed Hydrocodone for the patient without performing and documenting any physical examination, and without obtaining and/or documenting an appropriate history of the patient's tension headache. Respondent's notation on this date was "h/o tension headaches, bad reaction to limitrex; also tried Fiorimal. Having headaches twice a month. Mild constipation, but does not feel bad enough to require a laxative. Discussed dependence/tolerance. Pain well controlled with med. Patient understands to see Dr. if symptoms worse." The patient paid \$346.00 for the drug.

D. On or about February 13, 2006, respondent prescribed another 90 tablets of Hydrocodone APAP 10/325 for patient A.S. Respondent prescribed the Hydrocodone drug for the patient in spite of the fact that the previous prescription was written less than

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^{3.} Hydrocodone APAP is known by the trade name Tylenol #3 or Tylenol #4. It is a Schedule III controlled substance as defined by section 11056, subdivision (e)(4) of the Health and Safety Code. It is indicated for relief of moderate to moderately severe pain and a dangerous drag under Code section 4022.

twice a month." Respondent prescribed the Hydrocodone drug for the patient despite the evidence that the patient was either "drug seeking" or was "diverting" the drugs she obtained from respondent. Respondent also failed to make and/or note any inquiry to determine if the patient was addicted to drugs or was diverting drugs.

a month before, and in spite of respondent, notation that the patient had "headaches

Evaluation System Report (CURES Report) on patient A.S. for the period between December 2005 and March 2006 shows the patient obtained the following dangerous drugs and controlled substances from at least five other physicians: 60 capsules of Aspirin/butalbital/caffeine/codeine (December 13, 2005); 30 tablets of Hydrocodone APAP 10/650 (December 30, 2005); 60 capsules of Aspirin/butalbital/caffeine/codeine (January 5, 2006); 60 capsules of Fioricet with codeine (January 15, 2006); 60 capsules of Aspirin/butalbital/caffeine/codeine (January 17, 2006); 60 tablets of Dexedrine⁴ (February 6, 2006); 60 capsules of Fioricet with codeine (February 6, 2006); 30 tablets of Hydrocodone APAP 10/650 (February 7, 2006); 60 capsules of Aspirin/butalbital/caffeine/codeine (February 8, 2006); 60 capsules of Fioricet with codeine (February 16, 2006); 60 capsules of Fioricet with codeine (February 28, 2006); Aspirin/butalbital/caffeine/codeine (March 6, 2006); 60 capsules of Fioricet with codeine (March 12, 2006); and 60 capsules of Fioricet with codeine (March 12, 2006); and 60 capsules of Fioricet with codeine (March 27, 2006).

Patient J.W.N.

F. On or about February 17, 2006, patient J.W.N., a then 36-year-old male, ordered 90 tablets of Hydrocodone APAP 10/325 from justusameds. The patient presented two completed physical examination forms dated August 12, 2005, and February 6, 2006. The August 12, 2005 form indicated, among other things, that the patient was not ambulatory and complained of severe back and neck spasm and "clavicle"

^{4.} Dexedrine is an amphetamine and a Schedule II controlled substance under Health and Safety Code section 11056, subdivision (d)(1). Let indicated for treatment of narcolepsy and attention deficit disorder with hyperactivity. It is a gangerous drug under Code section 4022.

& traps withoderaic to severe pain." The February 6, 2006 form indicated the patient complained of nect, and back pain and was prescribed Vicodin and Ibuprofen.

G. On or about February 20, 2006, respondent prescribed 90 tablets of Hydrocodone APAP10/325 for the patient based on the patient's self-diagnosis of neck and back pain "from muscle spasm." Respondent prescribed Hydrocodone for the patient without performing and documenting any physical examination, and without obtaining and/or documenting an appropriate history of the patient's complaint of back and neck pain. Respondent's notation on this date included: "h/o back and neck pain from muscle spasm, for several months. Had normal x-rays, MRL told he had muscular back spasm. Unable to do PT because his job requires him to travel a lot which exacerbates the symptoms. Pain 10/10 at worst 3-5/10 on a good day. Takes 0-3 a day. A couple days/week doesn't need at all. Discussed dependence/tolerance. I recommended he try diazepam 5 mg, can take up to three times a day as needed as a muscle relaxer, which maybe more effective for spasm. . . . "

mg. for the patient's self diagnosis of anxiety.⁵ Respondent prescribed the diazepam drug for the patient on this same date. There is no notation of the medical justification for this drug. Respondent's notation on this date was a duplication of the notation she made on February 20, 2006. Respondent prescribed 90 tablets of Hydrocodone APAP 10/325 for patient J.W.N. on or about March 20 and April 13, 2006, based on the patient's orders on March 17 and April 10, 2006. The patient again ordered refills of the 90 tablets of Hydrocodone APAP 10/325 at about 6:35 p.m. on May 6, 2006, at about 6:47 p.m. on May 6, 2006, and at about 6:50 p.m. on May 6, 2006. Respondent approved these refill orders on May 8, 2006, on June 1, 2006, and on June 26, 2006, respectively.

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^{5.} Diazepam, known by the trade name Valium, is a psychotropic drug indicated for the management of anxiety disorders or for short-term relief of the symptoms of anxiety. It is a Scheduled IV controlled substance under Health and Safety Code section 11057 and dangerous drug under Code Section 4022.

- Without obtaining and documenting a history of the patient's back and neck pana, and without performing and documenting a physical examination that would include an assessment of the patient's pain and physical and psychologic functioning. Respondent also failed to perform and note reviews of the effectiveness of the Hydrocodone drug she was prescribing for the patient. Respondent continued prescribing Hydrocodone for the patient despite evidence that the patient was either "drug seeking" or was "diverting" the drugs she obtained from respondent. Respondent also failed to make and/or note any inquiry to determine if the patient was addicted to drugs or was diverting drugs.
- J. A review of the CURES Report on the patient for the period between February 17, 2006, and June 26, 2006, shows the patient obtained approximately 3344 tablets of Hydrocodone from approximately 13 physicians in Southern California. The CURES Report also shows that since December 2004, the patient had obtained tens of thousands of Hydrocodone tablets from several physicians in Southern California.

Patient D.T.

- K. On or about February 21, 2006, patient D.T., a then 49-year-old female, ordered 90 Ambien 10 mg⁶ from justusameds. The patient provided a copy of a completed medical form required by the Department of Motor Vehicles for an automobile license. The medical form, dated October 13, 2005, was prepared by the Rapid Care Walk-In Medical Group in Folsom, California. There is no patient complaint on the medical form, no indication the patient was taking any medications or suffered from insomnia. The provider's impression was that the patient was in "excellent health."
- L. On or about February 21, 2001, respondent prescribed 90 tablets of Ambien 10 mg. for the patient's self-diagnosis of insomnia. Respondent's notation on this date was: "MR with PE dated Oct 5. Pt with occasional insomnia, taking Ambien

^{6.} Ambien is a non-benzodiazepam hypnotic and a Schedule IV controlled substance under Health and Safety Code section 11957 and dangerous drug under Code section 4022. It is indicated for short-term treatment for insomnia.

several nights a week. With 5 mg, she still woke up in the middle of the night, but the 10 mg it working well for her. Denies side effects. Pt understands to see dr if symptoms change worsen." Respondent prescribed another 90 tablets of Ambien 10 mg, on or about June 10, 2006, based on the patient's order on June 8, 2006. Respondent's notation on this dated included: "MR with PE dated Oct 05. Pt known to me. No sig changes since last consult for Ambien in Feb 06." The patient paid \$297,00 for each order of the Ambien drug. Respondent prescribed Ambien for the patient without performing and documenting any physical examination, and without obtaining and/or documenting an appropriate history of the patient's insomnia.

Patient D.J.M.

- M. On or about January 27, 2006, patient D.J.M., a then 40 year-old male. ordered 90 tablets of Hydrocodone APAP 10/325 from justusameds. The patient presented a completed medical examination form dated October 15, 2005. The medical examination was performed by a MEDICEXAMS, an entity that conducts medical examinations in support of life insurance applications. There is no notation of any significant patient complaint on the medical form and there is no indication of any prescription medication the patient was taking. Other than the measurement of the patient's height, weight and vital signs, there is no notation of any other physical examination performed.
- N. On or about January 27, 2006, respondent prescribed 90 tablets of Hydrocodone APAP 10/325 for the patient's self diagnosis of lower back pain. Respondent prescribed another 90 tablets of Hydrocodone APAP 10/325 on or about June 10, 2006. Respondent prescribed Hydrocodone for patient D.J.M. without performing and documenting any physical examination, and without obtaining and/or documenting an appropriate history of the patient's complaint of lower back pain.

Patient L.K.

O. On or about December 29, 2005, patient L.K., a then 47-year-old male, ordered 90 tablett of Hydrocodone APAP 10/325 from justusameds. The patient

bilateral stenosis at L4-L5, and had received steroid injection treatments. However, there is no indication the patient had ever been prescribed Hydrocodone. On or about December 30, 2005, respondent prescribed 90 tablets of Hydrocodone APAP 10/325 for the patient based on the patient's self-diagnosis of back pain. Respondent's notation on this date was: "h/o lbp over a year; MRI showed degenerative disc at L2/3; has done physical therapy/cortisone shots. Pain controlled to some degree. Denies side effects. Discussed dependence/tolerance signs and symptoms. Pt understands to see driff symptoms worsen."

P. Thereafter, respondent prescribed 90 tablets of Hydrocodone 10/325 on or about February 17, 2006, February 20, 2006, and May 11, 2006. With minor differences, respondent's notation for these prescriptions are identical to her notation on December 30, 2005. Respondent prescribed Hydrocodone for the patient without ever performing and/or documenting any physical examination, and without obtaining and/or documenting any physical examination, and without obtaining and/or documenting any physical examination.

Patient J.K.

Q. On or about December 27, 2005, patient J.K., a then 47-year-old male patient ordered 90 tablets of Hydrocodone APAP 10/325 from justusameds. The patient presented medical records that included imaging reports from Cedars Sinai Medical Center that showed mild degenerative changes with foraminal narrowing on the left side at the C5-C6, and bilaterally at the C6-C7. The imaging reports also showed degenerative changes at L1-L2, L3-L3 and L5-S1. The medical records included electrodiagnostic studies which showed severe bilateral carpal tunnel syndrome. However, the medical records did not include any history of the patient's pain or of any physical examination performed, and there was no indication the patient was taking any prescription medication.

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7. Vicoprofen, a brand name for Hydrocodone, is a Schedule III controlled substance as defined by section 11056, subdivision (e)(4) of the Health and Safety Code and dangerous drug under Code section 4022. It is indicated for relief of moderate to moderately severe pain.

On of about December 28, 2005, respondent prescribed 90 tablets of R. Vicoprofen 7.5/200 for patient J.K. based on the patient's self-diagnosis of "Scianca" The patient paid \$387.24 for the drugs. Respondent's notation on this date was: "Ptprefers vicoprofen 7.5/200 - his pain is well controlled by this." Thereafter, respondent prescribed 90 Vicoprofen 7.5/200 mg, for the patient on or about January 23, 2006. May 27, 2006, and July 3, 2006, based on the patient's orders. Respondent prescribed Vicoprofen for the patient without ever performing and/or documenting any physical examination, and without obtaining and/or documenting an appropriate history of the patient's complaint of back pain. In her note for the January 23, 2006 prescription. respondent noted the patient reported that he had seen his "doctor" for a kidney and liver functions tests "to make sure the meds aren't having a subclinical effect." and that the patient would fax these laboratory results to respondent. Respondent failed to follow up on the kidney and liver test results. A review of the CURES Report on the patient between the period March 2006 and August 2006, shows the patient obtained approximately 80 tablets of Hydrocodone APAP 10/500 and 120 Vicoprofen 7.5/200 from two different physicians.

Patient T.O.

S. On or about January 17, 2006, patient T.O., a then 46-year-old male ordered 90 tablets of Hydrocodone APAP 10/500 from justusameds. The patient presented a completed "JustUSAmeds" physical examination form dated January 24, 2006. The physical examination form indicates the patient complained of pain in the lumber "area" from a degenerative disc, identified his primary care physician and indicated he had been taking Ibuprofen and Tylenol. However, there is no indication on the physical examination form that the patient had ever been prescribed Hydrocodone. Other than the measurement of the patient's height, weight and vital signs, there are no

 other physical examination documented on the physical examination form.

- Hydrocodone APAP 10′500 for the patient based on the patient's self-diagnosis of "degenerative disc." Respondent also prescribed 96 tablets of Hydrocodone APAP 10′500 for the patient on March 18, 200c. April 13, 2006, May 9, 2006, June 3, 2006, and June 30, 2006. The patient paid \$346.00 for each order of the Hydrocodone drug. Respondent prescribed Hydrocodone for the patient without performing and documenting any physical examination, and without obtaining and/or documenting an appropriate history of the patient's complaint of back and neck pain. Respondent prescribed Hydrocodone for the patient significant for the patient without making and/or noting any inquiry to determine if the patient was addicted to drugs or was diverting drugs.
- U. A review of the CURES Report on the patient between the period December 2005 and April 2006, shows the patient obtained approximately 390 tablets of Acetaminophen with Codeine and 44 tablets of Hydrocodone APAP 10/500 from one physician and three prescribing dentists.
- 12. Respondent committed gross negligence in her care, treatment and management of patients A.S., J.W.N., D.T., D.J.M., L.K., J.K. and T.O. which includes, but was not limited to, the following:

Patient A.S.

- A. Paragraphs 11(B) through (E), above, are hereby incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.
- B. Respondent prescribed controlled substances for patient A.S. without obtaining an adequate history of the patient's complaint of headaches, without performing a physical examination of the patient and without arriving at a diagnosis for the patient's headaches.
- C. Respondent prescribed Hydrocodone for this patient based on the patient's self-diagnosis of tension headache.

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D. On or about February 13, 2006, respondent prescribed another 90 tablets of Hydrocodone APAP 10/325 for this patient despite the patient's "drug-seeking" behavior, and failed to make and/or document any inquiry to determine if the patient was addicted to drugs or was diverting drugs.

Patient J.W.N.

- E. Paragraphs 11(F) through 11(J), above are hereby incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.
- F. Respondent prescribed Hydrocodone for patient J.W.N. without obtaining an adequate history of this patient's back and neck pain, without performing a physical examination of the patient and without arriving at a diagnosis for the patient's back and neck pain.
- G. On or about February 21, 2006, respondent prescribed 60 tablets of Diazepam10 mg. for this patient without obtaining an adequate history of the patient's anxiety condition, without performing a physical examination of the patient and without arriving at a diagnosis for the patient's anxiety condition.
- H. Respondent prescribed Hydrocodone for the patient based on the patient's self diagnosis of back and neck pain "from muscle spasm."
- 1. Respondent continued to prescribe Hydrocodone for this patient in spite of the fact the patient persistently ordered the drug at less than one-month intervals.
- J. Respondent continued to prescribe Eydrocodone for this patient despite evidence that the patient was either "drug-seeking" or was addicted to drugs.
- K. Respondent failed to perform and note periodic reviews of her treatment of this patient to determine the effectiveness and appropriateness of the large amount of Hydrocodone drugs she prescribed for the patient.
- L. In spite of the large amount of Hydrocodone respondent prescribed for this patient, respondent failed to initiate and/or note she initiated an inquiry into whether the patient was "diverting" the drugs he obtained from respondent.

M. In spite of the large amount of Hydrocodone respondent prescribed for this patient, respondent failed to initiate and/or note she initiated an inquiry into whether the patient was addicted to the drugs he obtained from respondent.

Patient D.T.

- N. Paragraphs 11(K)through 11(L), above are hereby incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.
- O. Respondent prescribed Ambien for patient D.T. without performing and documenting any physical examination, and without obtaining and/or documenting an appropriate history of the patient's insomnia.
- P. Respondent prescribed Ambien for this patient without arriving at a diagnosis for the patient's insomnia.
- Q. Respondent prescribed Ambien for this patient based on the patient's self diagnosis of insomnia.

Patient D.J.M.

- R. Paragraphs 11(M)through 11(N), above are hereby incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.
- S. Respondent prescribed Hydrocodone for patient D.J.M. without performing and documenting any physical examination, and without obtaining and/or documenting an appropriate history of the patient's back pain.
- T. Respondent prescribed Hydrocodone for this patient without arriving at a diagnosis for the patient's lower back pain.
- U. Respondent prescribed Hydrocodone for this patient based on the patient's self-diagnosis of lower back pain.

Patient L.K.

- V. Paragraphs 11(O)through 11(P), above, are hereby incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.
- W. Respondent prescribed Hydrocodone for patient L.K. without performing and documenting any physical examination, and without obtaining and or documenting

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an appropriate instory of the patient's back pain.

X. Respondent prescribed Hydrocodone for this patient based on the patient's self-diagnosis of lower back pain.

Patient J.K.

- Y. Paragraphs 11(Q)through 11(R), above are hereby incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.
- Z. Respondent prescribed Vicoprofen for patient J.K. without performing and documenting any physical examination, and without obtaining and/or documenting an appropriate history of the patient's back pain.
- A.A. Respondent prescribed Vicoprofen for this patient without arriving at a diagnosis for the patient's back pain.
- BB. Respondent prescribed Vicoprofen for this patient based on the patient's self-diagnosis of lower Sciatica.

Patient T.O.

- CC. Paragraphs 11(S)through 11(U), above, are hereby incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.
- DD. Respondent prescribed Hydrocodone for patient T.O. without performing and documenting any physical examination, and without obtaining and/or documenting an appropriate history of the patient's back pain.
- EE. Respondent prescribed Hydrocodone for this patient without arriving at a diagnosis for the patient's back pain.
- FF. Respondent prescribed Hydrocodonc for this patient based on the patient's self-diagnosis of degenerative disc.
- GG. Respondent failed to perform and note periodic reviews of her treatment of this patient to determine the effectiveness and appropriateness of the large amount of Hydrocodone drugs she prescribed for the patient.
- HH. In spite of the large amount of Hydrocodone respondent prescribed for this patient, respondent failed to initiate and or note she initiated an inquiry into whether the

T.O., as more particularly alleged in paragraphs 11 and 12, above, which are hereby incorporated

by reference as if fully set forth herein.

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FIFTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION

(Prescribing in Violation of Drug Federal and State Statutes)

Certificate No. A 93043 to disciplinary action under section 2234 as defined by section 2238 of the Code in that in her treatment and care of patients A.S., J.W.N., D.T., D.J.M., L.K., J.K., and T.O., respondent prescribed controlled substances and dangerous drugs in violation of federal and/or state statutes and regulations, as more particularly alleged in paragraphs 11 and 12, above, which are hereby incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

SIXTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION

(Prescribing Controlled Substance Without Appropriate Prior Exam)

Certificate No. A 93043 to disciplinary action under 2234, as defined by section 2242, subdivision (a), of the Code in that in her treatment and care of patients A.S., J.W.N., D.T., D.J.M., L.K., J.K. and T.O., respondent prescribed controlled substances and dangerous drugs without an appropriate prior examination and medical indication, as more particularly alleged in paragraphs 11 and 12, above which are hereby incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

SEVENTH CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION

(Prescribing Controlled Substance On the Internet)

18. Respondent has further subjected her Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 93043 to disciplinary action under section 2234, as defined by section 2242.1, subdivision (a), of the Code in that respondent prescribed controlled substances or dangerous drugs to patients A.S., J.W.N., D.T., D.J.M., L.K., J.K. and T.O., on the Internet without an appropriate prior examination and medical indication, as more particularly alleged in paragraphs 11 and 12, above which are hereby incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

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PRAYER

WHERLEORE, complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Board issue a decision:

- 1. Revolving or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. A 93043, issued to respondent Janine Gail Suvak, M.D.:
- 2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of respondent Janine Gail Suval; M.D.'s authority to supervise physician assistants, pursuant to section 3527 of the Code:
- 3. Ordering respondent Janine Gail Suvak. M.D., to pay the Board the costs of probation monitoring if placed on probation; and
 - 4. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED: April 9, 2009

BARBARA JOHNSTON

Executive Director

Medical Board of California

State of California

Complainant

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